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METHOD, SYSTEM, MEASUREMENT DEVICE AND RECEIVING DE-
VICE FOR PROVIDING FEEDBACK

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to providing
5 feedback relating to an activity. In particular, the
present invention relates to a novel and improved
method, system, measurement device and receiving de-
vice for providing feedback relating to an activity to
at least one individual.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

People have always been interested in how
they perform in various tasks, e.g. in various sport
events. Different manufacturers have provided various
15 kinds of devices that can be used to analyze e.g. a
sport event. These devices include e.g. a heart rate
monitor, a wrist computer etc.

The Global Positioning System (GPS) provides
a service in which by using a special GPS receiver po-
20 sition information can be acquired. The GPS uses a
plurality of satellites to determine the position.

There exists a plurality of known solutions
that use the GPS to record a path of an activity, e.g.
a sport event. Such a data recorder can be afterwards
25 connected to a computer and the performed path, e.g. a
run path, can be displayed on a screen of the computer
by connecting the recorded position points (coordi-
nates). Furthermore, there exists known solutions that
are able to record other quantities into memory of a
30 measurement device. The quantities include e.g. a heart
rate during an exercise, temperature etc.

One known solution uses a combination of a
wristwatch and a heart rate belt display and/or record
the heart rate data. The watch can be connected to a
35 computer after the exercise, and based on the recorded
heart rate data, a heart rate curve can be displayed

to the user as a function of time. Furthermore, in other solutions it is possible e.g. to determine speed during a recorded path and the length of the recorded path based on the based on the position coordinates
5 provided by the GPS receiver.

In some solutions, a current speed value and a distance travelled so far can be displayed using e.g. a wristwatch.

The problem with the current solutions is
10 that every activity or sport needs a dedicated measurement device that can used to analyse performance.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of the invention
15 there is provided a method of transmitting measured activity information and providing at least one individual with feedback based on the measured activity information. The method comprises the steps of measuring activity information relating to an activity of
20 with a measurement device; transmitting activity information to a receiving device via a communication link; selecting from the received activity information a predefined set of pieces of activity information with the receiving device; and providing the at least
25 one individual with feedback based on the selected activity information.

In one embodiment of the invention, the step of providing comprising providing the at least one individual at least one activity indicator based on the
30 selected activity information with at least one feedback device.

In one embodiment of the invention, prior to the step of providing the method further comprising the steps of calculating at least one additional activity indicator based on the at least one selected
35 activity information; and providing the at least one individual individual with the calculated at least one

additional activity indicator with the at least one feedback device.

In one embodiment of the invention, the step of providing comprising presenting the at least one
5 activity indicator to the at least one individual as at least one of a graphical form and voice signals.

In one embodiment of the invention, prior to the step of transmitting the method further comprising the step of calculating at least one additional piece
10 of activity information based on the measured activity information.

In one embodiment of the invention, the step of transmitting comprising transmitting activity information according to a communication protocol.

15 In one embodiment of the invention, the step of providing comprising providing the at least one individual with feedback with the receiving device.

In one embodiment of the invention, the step of providing comprising providing the at least one individual with feedback with at least one device connected to the receiving device.
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In one embodiment of the invention, the step of measuring comprising measuring at least one of the following quantities: time, location, altitude, temperature, and heart rate.
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According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a measurement device configured to measure and transmit activity information. The measurement device comprises a processor; a plurality of
30 measuring elements configured to measure a plurality of quantities relating to an activity; a memory configured to store measurement data provided by the measuring elements; and a transmitter configured to transmit activity information to at least one receiving device via a communication link according to a
35 communication protocol.

In one embodiment of the invention, the plurality of measuring elements comprises at least one of the following: a GPS receiver, a barometer, a thermometer, and at least one pulse coil configured to
5 measure heart rate.

In one embodiment of the invention, the processor is configured to calculate at least one additional piece of activity information based on the measured activity information; and the transmitter is
10 configured to transmit the calculated activity information via a communication link.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a receiving device configured to receive activity information from a measurement device.
15 The receiving device comprises a receiver configured to receive a transmission from the measurement device, wherein the transmission includes activity information measured with the measurement device; a memory configured to store at least one definition based on which a
20 predefined set of pieces of activity information is selected from the received activity information; and a processor configured to select the predefined set of pieces of activity information from the received activity information based on the at least one definition
25 tion stored on the memory.

In one embodiment of the invention, the receiving device further comprises at least one feedback device configured to provide at least one individual with feedback based on the selected activity information.
30 tion.

In one embodiment of the invention, the receiving device further comprises an output to which at least one feedback device can be connected.

In one embodiment of the invention, the at
35 least one feedback device is configured to provide the at least one individual with at least one activity indicator based on the selected activity information.

In one embodiment of the invention, the processor is configured to calculate at least one additional piece of activity information based on the at least one selected activity information, and the at least one feedback device is configured to provide the at least one individual with the calculated at least one activity indicator.

In one embodiment of the invention, the at least one feedback device is configured to present the at least one activity indicator to the at least one individual as at least one of a graphical form and voice signals.

In one embodiment of the invention, the at least one feedback device comprises at least one of a display, a speaker and an earpiece.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a system of transmitting measured activity information and providing at least one individual with feedback based on the measured activity information. The system comprises a measurement device comprising a first processor, a plurality of measuring elements configured to measure a plurality of quantities relating to an activity, a first memory configured to store measurement data provided by the measuring elements, and a transmitter configured to transmit activity information to at least one receiving device via a communication link according to a communication protocol; and a receiving device comprising a receiver configured to receive a transmission from the measurement device, wherein the transmission includes activity information measured with the measurement device, a second memory configured to store at least one definition based on which a predefined set of pieces of activity information is selected from the received activity information, and a second processor configured to select the predefined set of pieces of activity information from the received activity information based

on the at least one definition stored on the second memory; and at least one feedback device configured to provide the at least one individual with feedback based on the selected activity information.

5 In one embodiment of the invention, the plurality of measuring elements comprises at least one of the following: a GPS receiver, a barometer, a thermometer, and at least one pulse coil configured to measure heart rate.

10 In one embodiment of the invention, the first processor is configured to calculate at least one additional piece of activity information based on the measured activity information; and the transmitter is configured to transmit the calculated activity information via a communication link to the receiving device.

15 In one embodiment of the invention, the receiving device further comprises at least one feedback device configured to provide at least one individual with feedback based on the selected activity information.

20 In one embodiment of the invention, the receiving device further comprises an output to which at least one feedback device can be connected.

25 In one embodiment of the invention, the at least one feedback device is configured to provide the at least one individual with at least one activity indicator based on the selected activity information.

30 In one embodiment of the invention, the second processor is configured to calculate at least one additional piece of activity information based on the at least one selected activity information, and the at least one feedback device is configured to provide the at least one individual with the calculated at least one activity indicator.

35 In one embodiment of the invention, the at least one feedback device is configured to present the

at least one activity indicator to the at least one individual as at least one of a graphical form and voice signals.

In one embodiment of the invention, the at least one feedback device comprises at least one of a display, a speaker and an earpiece.

The present invention has several advantages over the prior-art solutions. A benefit of the invention is that a single measurement device can be used to transmit all relevant information relating to an activity. The receiving device may then decide what pieces of activity information to use. Due to the aforementioned fact, device manufacturers are able to manufacture a variety of different receiving devices depending on the need and use of the device. All devices, however, receive the same transmission from the measurement device and are configured to give feedback to an individual or individuals (e.g. using a display of a device). For example, a cheap receiving device may display just basic feedback values to an athlete, whereas a more expensive receiving device may provide the athlete with a variety of pieces of performance information.

In other words, the invention provides a standard communication interface into which manufacturers of suitable equipment, e.g. wrist watches, mobile terminals, fixed sport stadium displays shall connect to.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description help to explain the principles of the invention. In the drawings:

Fig 1 is a block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a method according to the invention,

Fig 2 is a block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a system according to the invention, and

5 Fig 3 illustrates one embodiment of possible user interfaces in receiving devices according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

10 Reference will now be made in detail to the embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a method according to the invention. As
15 indicated at step 10, activity information relating to an activity is measured with a measurement device. An activity may take any appropriate form, e.g. a run, a ski tour, sailing, cycling etc. A common feature to all these activities is that the user carries a measurement device. The measurement device may be attached
20 to the user or it may alternatively be a stand-alone model. The measurement device measures and records a plurality of quantities, e.g. time, location, altitude, temperature and/or heart rate.

25 Activity information is then transmitted to a receiving device via a communication link, e.g. a wireless communication link, as indicated at step 12. The receiving device is e.g. a wristwatch, a display panel etc. The wireless communication link refers e.g. to a
30 short-range wireless radio transmission. The receiving device is configured to select a predefined set of pieces of activity information from the transmission, as indicated at step 14. Based on the selected activity information, at least one individual is provided with
35 feedback, as indicated at step 16. The at least one individual may be the aforementioned user him-

self/herself. In another embodiment, the receiving device may be connected to a separate feedback device or devices, e.g. to a scoreboard providing a plurality of individuals with feedback at the same time.

5 Figure 2 is a block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a system according to the invention. The system of Figure 2 comprises a measurement device 20 and a receiving device 204. Figure 2 discloses only relevant elements and components of the measurement
10 device 20 and receiving device in order to illustrate the invention. Therefore, it is evident that the devices may comprise also other elements and components not illustrated in Figure 2.

 Measurement device 20 is in one embodiment a
15 device that can be attached e.g. to an arm of a user, e.g. an athlete. In other embodiments, it may be a stand-alone model that can be mounted to a desired place.

 Measurement device 20 comprises a plurality
20 of measuring elements 214. In this embodiment measuring elements 214 include a GPS receiver 216 configured to receive positioning information from a plurality of satellites, a pulse coil or pulse coils 22 configured to measure heart rate based on signals received e.g.
25 from a pulse belt, a thermometer 200 configured to measure temperature and an barometer 202 configured to measure altitude. An element optional sensors 218 refers to any other optional sensor or sensors not disclosed above that can be incorporated into measurement
30 device 20. Each measurement element is connected to a central processing unit 28. The measurement device 20 includes also a memory 24 connected to central processing unit 28. Memory 24 is configured to store measurements from the plurality of measuring elements 214.
35 Furthermore, measurement device 20 includes a transmitter 26. Central processing unit 28 is configured to send with transmitter 26 a set of measured pieces of

activity information from memory 24. Activity information refers mainly to measurement information provided by the plurality of measuring elements 214. Activity information may, however, comprise also information
5 that has been calculated using central processing unit 28 based on the measurement results provided by the plurality of measuring elements 214. Such calculated values may include e.g. speed (calculated based on altitude and position information), pitch angle (calculated based on altitude and position information) etc.
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The aforementioned activity information is arranged to a predefined form using a communication protocol. A frame of such a communication protocol typically comprises a header, at least one piece of
15 activity information (measurement or calculated value), and a checksum. The communication protocol may also be an adaptive protocol. Any appropriate protocol may be used in the transmission. Transmitter 26 is configured to transmit data to a receiving device 204
20 via a wireless communication link. The wireless communication link refers e.g. to a short-range wireless radio transmission.

Receiving device 204 receives the transmission from transmitter 26 with a receiver 208. Receiving device 204 further includes a central processing
25 unit 210, a memory 206 and a feedback device 212. Central processing unit 210 has a connection to each of receiver 208, memory 206 and feedback device 212. Memory 206 is configured to store at least one definition based on which a predefined set of pieces of activity
30 information is selected from the received activity information from measurement device 20. Central processing unit 210 is configured to select the predefined set of pieces of activity information from the received activity information based on the at least one
35 definition stored on memory 206. Central processing unit 210 may in one embodiment also calculate at least

one additional piece of activity information based on the at least one selected activity information. Such calculated values may include e.g. speed (calculated based on altitude and position information), pitch angle (calculated based on altitude and position information) etc.

Feedback device 212 is configured to provide the user of receiving device 204 with feedback based on the selected activity information. Feedback itself refers e.g. to a variety of activity indicators (speed, heart rate, altitude, air pressure temperature, position etc.). In one embodiment feedback is provided visually, i.e. feedback device 212 refers to a display. In another embodiment, feedback refers to sound signals, i.e. feedback device 212 refers e.g. to a speaker or an earpiece.

In Figure 2 it is illustrated that feedback device 212 is a functional part of receiving device 204. In another embodiment of the invention, receiving device is configured to include an output to which at least one external feedback device may be connected. The output refers e.g. to a wireless or wired output interface towards an external feedback device or devices.

Receiving device 204 refers e.g. to a wrist-watch, a display panel or any other type of feedback device that communicates with measurement device 20.

Although Figure 2 discloses a specific set of measurement elements 214, it is evident that any one of the measuring elements 214 may be replaced with another appropriate element or, alternatively, any one of them may not have to be included in measurement device 20 at all.

Figure 3 illustrates one embodiment of possible user interfaces in receiving devices according to the invention. Furthermore, Figure 3 discloses a sim-

plified embodiment that yet further illustrates the inventive idea of the invention.

Figure 3 includes a measurement device 30 that was already discussed in more detail with Figure 2. Figure 3 further includes two different user interfaces, a runner user interface 32 and a sailor user interface 34. Runner user interface 32 is typically used in smaller devices, e.g. wristwatches etc. Sailor user interface 34 may be displayed on a larger display. Therefore, it can be used to convey more information to a user. The transmission of measured activity information via a wireless interfaced was also discussed in more detail with Figure 2.

Runner user interface 32 shows basic values relating to an activity to the user. These basic values include e.g. altitude, pitch angle, speed and heart rate. Sailor user interface 34 displays more complex values to the user, e.g. longitude and latitude, air pressure, heasing, speed, temperature, various graphs etc. It can be seen from Figure 3 that, for example, information provided by a barometer can be used in different ways for different purposes or sports. A runner wants to see changes in air pressure by means of altitude changes, where as a sailor is also interested in the air pressure itself. Furthermore, air pressure in function of time can be used to forecast a possibility of a storm.

As a summary, Figure 3 clarifies the fundamental inventive idea of the invention, which provides a standard wireless communication interface into which manufacturers of suitable equipment, e.g. wristwatches, mobile terminals, fixed sport stadium displays shall connect to. Furthermore the size, durability and usability of the user interface device (receiving device) can be designed according to the characteristic of the activity or sport in question.

It is obvious to a person skilled in the art that with the advancement of technology, the basic idea of the invention may be implemented in various ways. The invention and its embodiments are thus not
5 limited to the examples described above, instead they may vary within the scope of the claims.